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Youngsters take a tour of the signal box, which became a surprise summer hit

SIGNAL BOX A SMASH HIT

TRAIN lovers are being told they
only have a few days left if they
want to take a look at Banbury
North Signal Box.

The redundant building is due to be
dismantled by Network Rail in the com-
ing weeks after plans to turn it into a
community and heritage asset failed.

But the national firm put the move
off for eight weeks to allow tours of the
box, which proved to be a surprise hit in
the summer.

About 3,000 people have been shown
around the signal box so far by signal-
men and rail workers who between
them kept Banbury's trains safe and
timely.

Cream teas, society meetings, busi-
ness meetings, school visits and staff
days out as well as visits from Cubs,
Brownies and Beavers have taken place.

Rob Kinchin-Smith, chairman of the
Banbury Civic Society, said: "Whilst the
interest shown has failed to change the
ultimate fate of Banbury North Signal
Box, the programme of visits has been
an outstanding exemplar of commu-
nity outreach and collaborative work-

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

ing between the Banbury North Signal
Box group, Network Rail, Chiltern Rail-
ways, local rail staff and a number of
heritage partners.

"Banbury should be very proud that
its initiative and its warmth and enthu-
siasm for its heritage, have been noted
at Network Rail, right up to board and
chairman level."

Earlier this year, the south box by
Bridge Street was removed as part
of an upgrade to the area's signalling
system that saw it moved from Ban-
bury to the West Midlands.

The north box is still operational
and features a "hidden heritage" of
polished levers, mechanical comput-
ers and a telegraph internet.

One senior railman who observed a
visit from a local Brownie group said:
"More children have been seen in
eight weeks in this signal box than in
a year in other programmes."

"It was a lesson in what a fantastic
facility the north box is proving to be

in community engagement and, per-
haps most critically, safety awareness.

"The children and their teachers were
not only entranced by what they were
shown in the box – talk about a 'hands-
on museum', with the levers providing
almost endless fun for them – but they
were in awe and wonder at the sound,
sight and turbulence of fast freights
passing by."

The final day of tours will be on Canal
Day in Banbury on Sunday, after which
dismantling will start. For more details
about Canal Day see page 3.

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MP appeals for more Syrian aid following visit

THE MP for Banbury is calling for renewed efforts to help those caught up in the Syrian conflict, after seeing the horrors many face on a daily basis.

Victoria Prentis visited the Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan last week to learn about the situation faced by its 80,000 residents.

But despite being impressed by work at the camp, the MP made a chilling discovery about the fate of thousands more people trapped in a desert area known as the Berm. She said: "The camps are amazing, fantastically organised and not at all how you would imagine.

"They are not fun, but they are safe and calm and ordered. The really bad thing is the people who aren't in the camps and nobody internationally is talking about them."

Mrs Prentis added: "No aid has got through apart from once in August when they crane-lifted aid in. We have no idea what's going on but there is evidence of shallow graves.

"The people who had a bit of money got out four years ago; we are down to the really vulnerable people now. They are just starving. It's horrific. I wake up at night worrying about this area and what we need to do is to start talking hard about it."

Last Christmas, Mrs Prentis launched Singing for Syrians, a UK-wide initiative encouraging people to hold carol concerts to raise money for aid in the war-ravaged country.

Visit singingforsyrians.com

Prentis surgeries take to the road

BICESTER and Banbury's MP has been chatting to residents over a cup of tea and a basket of weekly food as she trials new "supermarket surgeries".

Victoria Prentis has declared the new style of surgeries held in public spaces a success after meeting with constituents in Sainsbury's in both towns.

She said: "I have really enjoyed holding my supermarket surgeries over recent weeks in both Banbury and Bicester.

"Holding surgeries in a public place gives the opportunity for constituents to drop in and chat to me about important local or personal issues."

For information about upcoming surgeries see victoriaprentis.com/contact/surgery-appointments/.



An artist's impression of some of the 110 new homes due to be built off Bretch Hill in the coming months

Work under way on first phase of 400 homes site

Project marks start of plan to build a mix of two, three and four-bed properties

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

THE first phase of a planned 400-home development in Banbury is now under way after a major scheme was approved last month by council bosses.

After getting the go-ahead from Cherwell District Council on Wednesday, August 24, housebuilder Bloor Homes is ready to begin the development in Bretch Hill.

It marks the beginning of a long-term project to develop land west of the estate that received outline planning permission in March.

The first set of homes will comprise a range of two, three and four-bedroom properties, with ten of the initial 110 provided as af-



Steve MacPherson, design and technical director at Bloor Homes Western

fordable housing.

Large areas of open green space will be created to the north and west of the site, with a new foot-

path also created on the western side of Bretch Hill.

Steve MacPherson, design and technical director at Bloor Homes Western, said: "This new development will provide a range of much-needed new homes in an attractive and sustainable location close to the edge of Banbury. We are pleased that planning permission has been granted for phase one.

"We have worked very closely with planning officers to create a high quality scheme which blends in sympathetically with its surroundings."

Construction workers are now on site and the development is set to be opened up to visitors in early 2017.

It forms part of a large-scale development of 400 homes on the site, which will also include employment and training premises.

Plans to add hundreds of new homes to the existing Bretch Hill

estate as well as Bankside were first announced by Cherwell District Council in 2010.

Mark Cherry, who represents the Ruscott ward on Banbury Town Council, said he was pleased work was going ahead but some Bretch Hill residents were uncertain.

He said: "People are concerned about heavy traffic and lorries coming through Bretch Hill. I've contacted the developers.

"They have put in a secondary road for traffic and earth-moving lorries because farmers still need access to the fields that aren't being built on."

Overall it is understood that 120 affordable homes are going to be delivered as part of the project.

Mr Cherry added: "It seems to be progressing well.

"The date isn't set yet but there will be a drop-in at The Sunshine Centre so that people can see the finalised plans."

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Picnic in sunshine for at-risk maternity unit

Event set up by residents as a more positive response over Trust plans to downgrade unit

Hannah Somerville
hannah.somerville@nqo.com

THOUSANDS of Banbury residents brought a bit of cheer to a sad situation this weekend with a teddy bears' picnic to celebrate the babies of the Horton General Hospital.

Local parents descended on Spiceball Park on Sunday with youngsters and furry friends in tow, along with members of the Keep the Horton General Campaign.

The event was set up by residents as a more positive response to Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust's plans to temporarily downgrade the maternity unit at the Horton to a midwife-led unit, following months of failed attempts to recruit new doctors in obstetrics.

On the day, families took part in a range of activities and traditional games, with food and drink available in abundance to all.

Co-organiser Emma Gold, 33, from Banbury, said: "From start to end there was a community spirit in the air. The supporters shone like the weather and made us proud."

"It was such a memorable day, with everyone coming together to keep our hospital safe. It was a joy to watch everyone having fun."

Personalised T-shirts were printed and handed out bearing children's dates of birth along with the legend "Proud to be a Horton baby".

A silver birch is due to be planted shortly as a 'memory tree' for babies who were lost due to miscarriage or during birth, with crocheted hearts hanging from it.

Changes to the maternity unit are coming into effect on Monday, October 3, and could be reversed in January next year at the earliest.

Mrs Gold added: "This week we are facing our toughest and most heart-



Children born at the Horton General Hospital enjoy the entertainment at the teddy bears' picnic in Spiceball Park

breaking battle, but Banbury has come back fighting for a service that is so precious to us and one we will not back down on saving."

A total of £4,000 was raised for the Keep the Horton General group, which is currently planning to mount a legal challenge against OUH, over the course of the day.

Campaigner Val Ingram wrote on Facebook: "With two weeks to turn this around we managed to create a memorable day with lots of fun and laughter."

"The day was about acknowledging the place in our hearts for our local hospital, for the staff at the Horton and in particular all the babies born over the last 50 years."



A bubbly day of fun on the canal

BOATERS, crafters, traders and visitors from all over the UK will converge on Banbury's waterways for a day of aquatic attractions.

The 13th Banbury Canal Day is based around the theme of bubbles and will take place on Sunday, October 2.

Commercial boats and water taxis will take visitors up and down the canal itself while local businesses are hosting a range of special events to mark the autumn celebration.

The nearby Mill Arts Centre will open its doors for a day of entertainment, food and drink while General Foods Garden hosts a free folk concert next to the towpath.

Sovereign Wharf will give passers-by the chance to enjoy a boat ride while being entertained by barrel organs.

Elsewhere, Tooley's historic boatyard displays engines and boats with the chance to watch a blacksmith at work.

Falconry, traders and fairground rides will keep visitors of all ages amused, with attractions spilling over into Spiceball Park.

The event runs from 10am until 4pm and is free.

For details, call Banbury Town Council on 01295 250340.

New councillor

VOTERS elected a new councillor for Adderbury, Bloxham and Bodicote by a sizeable margin.

Andrew John McHugh of the Conservative Party was elected in a Cherwell District Council by-election held on Thursday.

It comes after his predecessor, Conservative Nigel Randall, resigned this summer over his party's "handling of the EU referendum".

Mr McHugh polled 1015 votes, Labour's Sue Christie won 286 votes, the Green's Naomi Isobel Kanetsuka 278 and Lib Dem's Ian Richard Thomas 189.

More volunteers needed for home library 'lifeline'

A FORMER Oxfordshire librarian who rekindled her love of books thanks to a "lifeline" library service has called on more people to volunteer for the scheme.

Edna Malcher, who lives in Banbury, gets books delivered to her front door as part of a home library service.

But the 88-year-old is urging more people to give up their time and allow the county council to expand its current service.

She said: "The person who comes to visit is very nice and friendly."

"I get the bag ready for him to swap and he makes sure that he brings books that I'm interested in or have requested."

"The main thing is having contact with someone, especially someone so pleasant."

"It's very important to make a good impression - I've seen that from both sides having worked for the library and now using the home library service."

Volunteers organise drop-off times with the people they deliver to, making the role easy to fit around existing commitments.

Mrs Malcher added: "It's an opportunity for them to learn a lot about people and to be on their level. You have a lot of different types of people and you have to be prepared to talk to all sorts."



Former librarian Edna Malcher

"I remember when I worked at Deddington Library, one of the doctors came out of the surgery and said, 'Can I have a book by a South African with a beard?'"

"I used to love working there with all different types of people, it's a most interesting job, it really is."

Expenses are paid for volunteers and

they are able to do as many or as few journeys as they wish.

Volunteer Alison Baxter, from Temple Cowley, said: "After I retired I was looking for useful ways to fill my time and chose the home library service because it was something I felt strongly about."


"I would be devastated if I could no longer access a library and I don't want that to happen to other people. It isn't a big commitment, and can be fitted in easily around the rest of my life; it only takes an hour or so every three weeks."

"The service is important to the lady I visit because she needs something to occupy her time, and I think she also enjoys having someone drop in for a chat because she doesn't get out as much as she used to."

Oxfordshire County Council's member for cultural services Lorraine Lindsay Gale said: "Volunteers are a friendly face who can stop by once every three weeks to bring customers some new books or CDs and spend some time to share their own stories."

"The home library service brings entertainment, pleasure and human contact to people, where they may otherwise have little or none."

Visit: oxfordshire.gov.uk/homelibrary





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Town entered for UK award

BANBURY'S town centre will go under the spotlight in the search for the best examples of work to stimulate Britain's high streets.

The town has been entered by Cherwell District Council in the Large Market Town category at the Great British High Street Awards.

Shortlisting begins at the end of this month with the final list to be announced in mid-October.

If Banbury makes the list it will enter a month-long judging period in which the public can have their say, with winners to be announced at a special ceremony in December.

District council lead member for estates and the economy Lynn Pratt said: "Cherwell District Council works to support businesses and community groups to make Banbury town centre a great place to live, work and socialise.

"We couldn't do this without the support of partners in the community, the town council and organisations such as the Banbury Old Town Association.

"Because the general public plays such a big part in determining the outcome of this prize, I am calling on the town's residents to back our application and be ready to vote for Banbury if we are shortlisted.

"The awards are not only about getting recognition for those who work so hard to make Banbury town centre the best it can be.

"They are also a superb opportunity to learn from others' ideas and share our own success stories with others."

Vaccine plea

WITH winter just around the corner, parents are being reminded to give their consent for their children to receive flu vaccines in school.

Pupils in years one, two and three are being offered the flu vaccine by Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust school nurses.

Parents will have been sent a consent letter from their child's school and are being reminded to return it by Monday.

To download a consent form visit oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Solar roof gives power to the people



The largest community-owned solar panel rooftop in the UK at the Banbury HQ of motorsports firm Prodrive

THE LARGEST community-owned solar roof in the UK has been built in Oxfordshire.

Motorsports and engineering firm Prodrive is hosting the 2,446 photovoltaic panels on the roof of its Banbury headquarters.

The 636kW power plant is owned by dozens of citizens from Oxfordshire and beyond who invested their own money.

As well as the satisfaction of

funding renewable energy, they will get a five per cent return on their investment.

The total project costs £633,282 and was co-ordinated by Oxford social enterprise Low Carbon Hub.

The group has not yet raised all of that money from investors, and took out a loan from Oxford City Council to cover part of the cost, but people can still invest.

The hub said the project's size was

significant not only for the 636kW of clean energy which will be sold to Prodrive and the national grid, but because of where the revenue generated will end up.

One third will cover installation and maintenance costs, one third will pay investors' returns and the final third will go into Low Carbon Hub's community benefit fund.

The solar roof will be officially switched on in a ceremony on

Tuesday morning.

Prodrive chairman David Richards said: "As we are developing the next generation of automotive electric and hybrid systems here in Banbury, it was very obvious that we should use our roof space to generate clean energy for the building.

"The scheme run by the Low Carbon Hub is an excellent way to reduce our carbon footprint and lower our energy bills."

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Event is just the job for hopefuls

160 jobseekers flock to fair to talk with firms and explore vacancies

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

JOBSEEKERS brought a wealth of talent straight to the tables of local employers at the latest Banbury Job Fair.

The event on September 15 saw more than 160 people crowd the Town Hall to meet with firms looking to boost their workforce in the next year.

A total of 26 businesses and other organisations set up stalls on the night to discuss new job opportunities



Lynn Pratt, Cherwell District Council's lead member for estates and the economy

as well as training and apprenticeships.

Representatives from South Central Ambulance Service and Thames Valley

Police were on hand with advice, as well as those from the hospitality, healthcare and construction industries who wanted to meet potential new recruits.

Hundreds of jobs were on offer and advertised on the night.

Councillor Lynn Pratt, Cherwell District Council's lead member for estates and the economy, said: "I was very pleased to see a wide range of companies present at the fair.

"We had some excellent responses from visitors, who commented on how much they valued the chance to talk to employers in an informal setting."

According to the latest government figures a total of 77.9 per cent of men and

69.8 per cent of women in the Cherwell area are in employment.

These figures are slightly under the average in the South East for both sexes.

About 6,550 people are currently on benefits.

Those attending the job fair were also invited to enhance their job prospects by obtaining help writing CVs and information on the Oxfordshire Wheels 2 Work scheme.

A total of 86 per cent of visitors surveyed by Cherwell afterwards rated it as "good", "very good" or "excellent".

The final job fair of the year in North Oxfordshire was taking place last night in the new Bicester Library, Franklins House.

Pharmacist's meningitis symptom advice

THE chief pharmacist, owner and manager of three Oxford and Banbury pharmacies is warning people to stay vigilant to the symptoms of meningitis.

Stuart Gale, who runs the Frost Pharmacy Group in Marston, Headington and Banbury, issued the warning to coincide with Meningitis Awareness Week, which got under way yesterday.

He said: "For any parent, the idea of their child contracting a disease such as meningitis is the stuff of nightmares."

"High profile campaigns such as the petition for the Meningitis B vaccine to be made available to all children, help to raise awareness but uncertainty around the disease still exists."

"Awareness weeks such as this serve as a perfect opportunity to remind ourselves of the warning signs, should your child become unwell. Remember, meningitis can kill in hours. Recognising the



Stuart Gale, owner and manager of the Frost Pharmacy Group symptoms and acting on them quickly is vital."

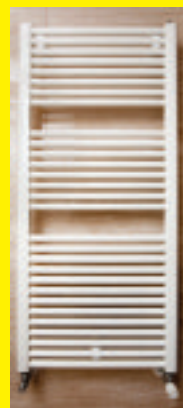
Symptoms for babies include: irritable with a high pitched cry; stiff body; jerky movements and a tense bulging fontanelle.

For all children symptoms may include: a rash; unresponsiveness; staring; difficulty to wake; poor eye contact; and seizures.

For older children and adults, symptoms could be: neck stiffness; headache; extreme sensitivity to light; may be combative; confused or aggressive.

Parents may note some or all of the above symptoms. Absence of a symptom should not be taken as reassurance. If in doubt seek medical advice.

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& Abingdon areas and manager James Miller agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise."

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Victoria Prentis MP with Paul Chase of On Board Defence and the award-winning "Portector" device

Gadget holds key to stop car thefts

Firm designs electronic device to prevent vehicles being stolen so easily

Hannah Somerville
hsomerville@nqo.com

A BANBURY firm has triumphed after spending more than a year creating an electronic device to stop vehicles being stolen without keys.

Staff at On Board Defence in Haslemere Drive created the signal-blocking "Portector" to combat a growing tendency by thieves to bypass cars' immobilisers.

The company has since won a major international accolade for its good work and was praised last week by Banbury MP Victoria Prentis.

Paul Chase, managing director at On Board Defence, said it was hoped the tool would

bring peace of mind to vehicle owners. He added: "Even the newest cars and vans are vulnerable to electronic compromise and many can be stolen in less than 60 seconds."

"Thieves can acquire handheld signal-jamming and bypass tools online and we believe that millions of vehicles are at risk."

"Portector is a proven method of combatting this increasing form of crime."

The Portector device, first developed last year, was subject to months of rigorous testing by motor insurers' centre Thatcham Research.

It is the first piece of equipment of its kind to gain certification from Thatcham and staff at On Board Defence are now in discussions with insurers.

At the Automechanika event in Frankfurt on September 13, Europe's largest trade show the company received the Innovation Award for its efforts.

Following the triumph Mrs

Prentis visited the firm's Banbury headquarters to watch a demonstration.

She said: "As methods have become more sophisticated, the fight against vehicle crime has become increasingly important."

"I was really impressed when I visited On Board Defence. It was very clear that they are doing some pioneering work at their base in Banbury."

"They really are leading the way in helping private motorists and fleet owners protect their own vehicles."

According to the Office for National Statistics, national theft of a motor vehicle increased by one per cent from 75,308 year in 2013/14 to 75,809 year in 2014/15.

This bucked the trend for declining vehicle theft over the past two decades. Police attribute "theft by electronic compromise" to organised criminal gangs, stealing cars to order for the international black market as well as for sale as parts.

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Body-cams for bobbies on beat

Help in evidence gathering and boost for guilty pleas, cutting officers' court time

Michael Race
mrace@nqo.com

BODY cameras will be rolled out for police officers across Oxfordshire to gather evidence on the beat and encourage guilty pleas from offenders.

Police and Crime Commissioner Anthony Stansfeld said officers in the Thames Valley would have access to "body-worn video" – a recording device which will capture an officer's interactions with criminals and members of the public.

The Conservative PCC said one of the main aims of the move was to make solving crimes in the nighttime economy easier.

Thames Valley Police said there was no timescale for when the equipment would be available for on-duty officers, but said it aimed to "substantially increase" the number of officers using cameras.

In an exclusive interview Mr Stansfeld said some front-line officers had used the cameras, and the pilot had proved a success.

Mr Stansfeld, who was re-elected as PCC in May, added there were a "number of reasons" behind the decision to roll them out.

He said: "In the nighttime economy people often plead guilty when they see the body-worn camera foot-



A Thames Valley Police body-mounted camera; right, Supt Christian Bunt and PCC Anthony Stansfeld



age the next morning.

"It's also very useful in domestic abuse cases and gives protection to police officers against false claims. But it also ensures officers behave in an exemplary fashion.

"The video footage is also useful in court cases when giving evidence."

It is understood each camera costs between £300 to £400.

Mr Stansfeld said the project would "pay for itself" through the

time and effort saved in getting guilty pleas.

He added: "The less time they [officers] turn up giving evidence in court cases, the more time they will be spending on the beat."

Supt Christian Bunt, local policing area commander for Oxford, said having body-worn cameras is "extremely useful" adding that he "fully endorsed" rolling them out to more constables.

He added: "It's just another tool in our box; it's not always used for evidence to charge someone, sometimes we will show it to people and to say this is how you've behaved, do not do it again.

"They are good in terms of capturing evidence.

"When they are being used, they can really impact the way people react in terms of their behaviour, and defuse situations.

"It's also good for the public in terms of transparency. It can also be used for officers to learn and develop their skills to see how we can do better."

The force confirmed it would first focus on replacing the existing equipment.

Graham Smith, chairman of the Thames Valley Police Federation, the body which represents rank-and-file officers, supported the move but said having video doesn't give the full picture of an event.

He said: "It's a good addition for both officers and public protection. But videos do not show the entire story of an incident, it shows a 2D version of events.

"We do support the roll-out and I wish all officers could have body-worn video issued to them, but at this time funding is not available."

The force said the footage, if not to be used as evidence, is stored for 31 days and then deleted.



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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

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- The voucher can only be redeemed at the named pub that you have selected on the Free Pint website app.
- The voucher is only valid for use between the dates as stated in point 1 above and can only be redeemed for a pint of cask ale*.
- There are 70 free pints in each participating pub which are available on a first come, first served basis. The promotion will end in the pub either when all of the free pints have been claimed, or at midnight on the closing date, whichever occurs first.
- The voucher cannot be used with any other offer or discount and it cannot be sold or exchanged for cash or any alternative product*.

- Only one free pint voucher may be redeemed per customer per pub.
- It is not the intention of this promotion in any way to encourage excessive amounts of alcohol, or drink irresponsibly.
- This offer is only open to customers who are residents of the UK (excluding Scotland and Northern Ireland) who have accessed their voucher via the Free Pint website app and must be aged 18 or over. Proof of identity may be required.
- The voucher has no cash value and can only be redeemed once.
- A valid email address or Facebook account will be required to access the voucher. The Free Pint website app can only be accessed using a smartphone or tablet – there is no printed alternative.
- The participating pub may refuse a voucher at their sole discretion.
- The promotion may be withdrawn or subject to change without notice.

- The decision of the Promoter or the landlord at the participating pub is final.
- Offer is subject to availability.
- If you have any difficulties using this Free Pint Promotion web app please email contactcentre@punchtaverns.com
- * If you would prefer not to redeem your voucher for a pint of cask ale, soft drink options will be available

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Water studies

SCHOOLS, environmental groups and individuals are invited to take part in a county-wide Water Blitz this autumn.

Participants are wanted to check the water quality in their local stream, pond, ditch or river and help build a water quality picture for the whole of Oxfordshire.

The day of action on Monday, October 3, is being co-ordinated by environmental group Wild Oxfordshire.

Oxford-based environmental charity EarthWatch has volunteered to handle the data and map all results on its global water-hub with the resulting data available to everyone involved.

To get hold of a free water sampling pack, register by emailing hilary@wildoxfordshire.org.uk.

Make a will

LAWYERS and writers in North Oxfordshire are inviting people to make a will, with their payment for the service going to a good cause.

Throughout national Make A Will Week, from October 17 to October 21, local firms will write a basic or standard will containing instructions on what to do with money and property after death, or update existing ones, in return for a donation to Katharine House Hospice.

The centre in Adderbury offers specialist palliative and end-of-life care to people with terminal illnesses in Oxfordshire. For details, visit khh.org.uk/make-a-will-week.

Schoolchildren's charity fundraiser is spot on



Children from Wroxton CE Primary School turned the town sign spotty to support Lloyds Bank and BBC Children in Need

A WROXTON school turned spotty for charity in a bid to raise money for Children in Need.

As part of The Big Spottacular initiative children and teachers dressed

up in spots, sold spotty cakes and took part in spotty-themed challenges, all in aid of supporting children who need it most.

Headteacher at Wroxton Primary

School, April Guinness, said: "We had great fun turning Wroxton Primary School spotty."

"The pupils are very excited about The Big Lloyds Bank Spottacular and

developing spotty fundraising ideas for BBC Children in Need".

The campaign is a partnership between Lloyds Bank and BBC Children in Need.

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Paramedics face crisis over shifts

Report claims work rotas are having negative effect on the well-being of staff

Georgina Campbell
gcampbell@nqo.com

FURTHER concerns have been raised over low morale and increasing pressures on ambulance staff after a healthcare watchdog published its report on the service yesterday.

The Care Quality Commission report on South Central Ambulance Services (SCAS) again raised issues around shift patterns and rotas that were taking its toll on staff well-being.

Although the service was rated "good" overall, fears raised in June about the huge pressures on overstretched paramedics emerged in the report as well as failings to meet 999 call response targets.

As "caring and compassionate" staff worked long hours and missing meal breaks, some patients calling 111 were

waiting up to six hours for a call-back from clinicians.

Gavin Bashford, SCAS Union representative, said the work-life balance is "the single biggest reason for staff leaving the trust."

The paramedic, with 10 years' experience, said: "There were new rotas that were implemented around 18 months ago and this has had a negative effect on staff and patients because an awful lot of staff have left over these rotas."

"Staff normally work a 12-hour shift, with several stints on day and night shifts before a break."

"Now they are working 10-hour shifts which are all over the place, with people working a few shifts, having a day off before being back in again."

Mr Bashford said the ambulance trust acknowledged "they got the rotas

Union rep Gavin Bashford

wrong" and are hoping to introduce new ones as early as January next year.

He said another problem the trust is tackling is recruitment, with more than 300 frontline staff vacancies to be filled across the trust.

Melanie Saunders, director of human resources and organisational development at SCAS, said in the last 12 months the trust had reduced the frontline vacancy rate in Oxfordshire from seven per cent to less than one per cent.

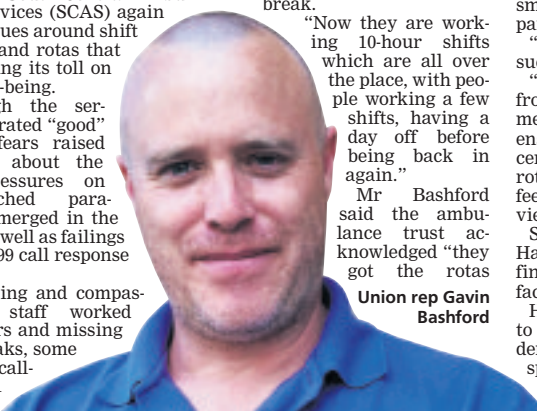
She said: "Some of this has been achieved by employing a small number of international paramedics within Oxfordshire."

"Currently there are three such recruits working locally."

"We actively seek feedback from staff on what improvements they want to see and then ensure this is actioned and a recent staff survey on the current rota system has also provided feedback that is now being reviewed and acted upon."

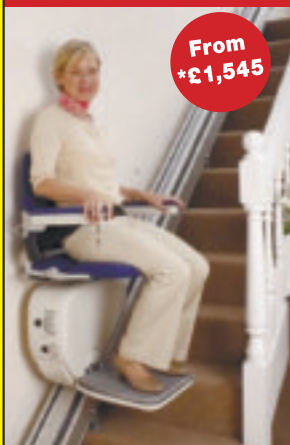
SCAS chief executive, William Hancock, welcomed the overall findings, but warned the service faced "unprecedented demand."

He added: "We are committed to finding a way to manage that demand to enable us to meet response times and ensure that patients are responded to safely and appropriately."



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Help care for wildlife habitat

THE conservation team who look after wildlife at Banbury's green spaces are looking for more volunteers.

Wild Banbury is inviting residents to a series of taster days this autumn and winter, starting on Saturday, October 8. The team, run by the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) organise regular work parties to look after Spiceball Park and the wetlands in Hanwell Brook.

Wild Banbury project manager Judith Hartley said: "The work parties are open to anyone and everyone who wants to help develop these sites for wildlife."

"We'll be clearing some brash from the River Cherwell and cutting back some willow to create more open wetland."

"There will be time for watching wildlife too when I lead guided walks through the sites, explaining how and why wildlife will benefit from all the work we'll be doing."

The winter work at Hanwell Brook wetland and Spiceball Park will include cutting back trees as well as tree planting and digging out ponds.

Next spring and summer volunteers will be scything meadows and planting wild flowers.

All equipment is provided by BBOWT and training is given before using specialist tools.

The Wild Banbury project started in 2015 with work on the River Cherwell in Spiceball Park to re-landscape banks so that more people can stroll beside the river, looking out for kingfishers and otters.

To find out more, meet Mrs Hartley at the Banbury Canal Day on Sunday or email judithhartley@bbowt.org.uk

Hospice urges others to apply for charity windfall

Grant from Gannett helped buy vital drugs trolley and now it's your time to apply

Naomi Herring
nherring@nqo.com

A CHILDREN'S hospice has urged others to apply for up to £10,000 through the *Banbury Cake* after its own windfall helped buy vital equipment.

There is less than one month left for charities to apply for grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 through the *Banbury Cake* parent company's charitable arm: the Gannett Foundation.

Helen and Douglas House hospice in Magdalen Road is just one of many charities to benefit after receiving £9,000 towards new equipment and facilities.

Helen and Douglas House director of fundraising and market Hazel Bedford said: "As a charity we rely very heavily on the goodwill of people in the community to be able to pay for the service we provide for young hospice patients and their families."

"Applying for grants is one way we can gain additional income to support the range of care we offer. "The Gannett Foundation grant

bought a much needed new drugs trolley for the hospice and we would encourage others to apply for a grant to help with their work too."

The hospice was awarded £9,000 in 2013 after applying for funding through the newspaper.

The cash boost enabled the hospice to buy vital equipment including the new drugs trolley to support their work caring for children with terminal illnesses.

The charity is one of many that have benefited from a cash windfall through the Gannett Foundation including the Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage Talking Newspaper (DAWN) which received £6,848 in 2010.

The Gannett Foundation handed over £10,800 in 2012 for Oxford's Yellow Submarine which helps people with special needs and more than £6,500 towards the Blackbird Leys Adventure Playground.

The application process has been launched this year and local charities and good causes have one month left to apply.

Each year there is a theme and this time around it is The Needs of Rural Communities.

■ The closing date for applications is Friday, October 14, and forms can be found at banburycake.co.uk/gannettfoundation



Liz Leigh, deputy director of clinical services at Helen and Douglas House in 2013, with the drugs trolley bought with help from the Gannett Foundation

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Blood-soaked morality tale

FREE STATE OF JONES (15, 140 mins) Drama/War/Romance/Action. Matthew McConaughey, Gugu Mbatha-Raw, Keri Russell, Mahershala Ali, Brian Lee Franklin, Jacob Lofland. Director: Gary Ross

AS AMERICA'S two presidential hopefuls sermonise passionately about equality in their bids for the White House, *Free State Of Jones* provides a stark reminder of the bloody repercussions when citizens are denied their rights.

Gary Ross' handsome historical drama is a fictionalised recreation of a five-year period when the American Civil War forced neighbouring states to choose sides.

Hard-working men, women and children were caught in the crossfire of a brutal conflict that led to the abolition of slavery and an amendment to the constitution to safeguard the voting rights of every man regardless of his "race, colour or previous condition of servitude".

In October 1862, Newton (Matthew McConaughey) is serving as a medic in the Confederate Army and witnesses a local boy being shot on the front line. Horrified by this senseless loss of an innocent life, Newton abandons his post and returns home to Jones County with the boy's body to perform a proper burial.

The threat of capture as a deserter exerts intolerable strain on his relationship with his wife Serena (Keri Russell) and Newton eventually flees into nearby swamps, where he befriends runaway slaves including Rachel (Gugu Mbatha-Raw) and Moses (Mahershala Ali).

They live quietly off the land, hoping not to draw the attention of sadistic Lieutenant Barbour (Brad Carter) and his soldiers.

When Newton learns that Confederate troops are seizing crops and livestock from hard-working farmers, he stages a

rebellion and the ranks of the so-called "Free State of Jones" swell.

So too does Lieutenant Barbour's resolve to crush the uprising, which leads to a series of violent skirmishes that saturate the arid soil with the blood on both sides.

Running to a gruelling 140 minutes, *Free State Of Jones* is a slog and pacing errs towards the pedestrian, even in sporadic battle sequences.

It certainly doesn't help that writer-director Ross chooses to bookmark his history lesson with flash forwards to a courtroom battle several decades after the end of the war involving Knight's great-great-grandson.

McConaughey delivers his character's speeches with gravitas and tear-stained cheeks, and catalyses simmering on-screen chemistry with Mbatha-Raw.

"Time has a way of changing things," one idealistic lawyer observes in the film.

On November 8, when America goes to the polls, we will see if that optimism bears fruit.

DEEPWATER HORIZON (12A, 108 mins) Thriller/Action/Romance. Mark Wahlberg, Kurt Russell, John Malkovich, Gina Rodriguez, Dylan O'Brien, Kate Hudson, Ethan Suplee. Director: Peter Berg

ON APRIL 20, 2010, an explosion on the oil drilling rig *Deepwater Horizon*, located in the Gulf of Mexico, resulted in the deaths of 11 platform workers.

When the structure eventually sank, oil continued to gush from the sea floor for almost three months.

Pivotal moments from this harrowing real-life disaster are recreated with testosterone-fuelled swagger by director Peter Berg in the action-packed thriller *Deepwater Horizon*.

Based on a newspaper article about the platform's final heart-stopping hours, the film reunites Berg with leading man Mark



Matthew McConaughey as Newt in *Free State of Jones* and, inset, Mark Wahlberg in *Deepwater Horizon*

Wahlberg after their successful collaboration on wartime drama *Lone Survivor*.

The sense of dread that pervades early scenes – the calm before the digitally enhanced storm – is palpable.

Scriptwriters Matthew Michael Carnahan and Matthew Sand hastily sketch characters so we have emotional ties to several rig workers before the initial devastating blast.

Wahlberg looks stoic in the face of certain death, flexing his muscles as an action-packed second half demonstrates Berg's brio behind the camera.

A heartfelt tribute to the lost crew over the end credits brings the film to a sombre close.

Cake Bookworm

The Pigeon Tunnel: Stories From My Life by John le Carré is published in hardback by Viking, priced £20 (ebook £9.99)

ESPIONAGE master le Carré invites us into a real world of spying and secrecy in this captivating memoir. Le Carré has spent half a century delving deep into the hidden world of foreign intelligence, often to the disapproval of its inhabitants. Now in his 80s, the *Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy* author documents his life – crucially including his time as a real-life Cold War spook in West Germany – and highlights the inspiration behind some of his best-known characters. *The Pigeon Tunnel* has the feel more of a collection of short stories rather than a flowing narrative documenting a whole life in chronological order – and it works. The result is an absorbing look into the life and mind of one of the world's top spy writers. Rather like his best known MI6 creation

George Smiley, he presents a man who is far from perfect, but always retains the ability to influence and captivate.

The Wonder by Emma Donoghue is published in hardback by Picador, priced £14.99 (ebook £8.54)

AUTHOR Emma Donoghue is now a household name thanks to her bestselling novel *Room*, which was made into an Oscar-winning film last year. Her latest effort is a similarly suspenseful and tightly-wrought thriller, where the majority of the action takes place in a small claustrophobic room. But this novel is set in a dark and peaty village in Victorian Ireland, where an 11-year-old girl in perfect health is believed to have lived for the past four months on nothing but air. An English nurse trained under the watchful eye of Florence Nightingale is hired, along with a local nun, to keep constant watch over the God-fearing child,

to discover whether this really is a miracle or a religious hoax. *The Wonder* is a clever novel, balancing vivid period detail with a tightly-wound narrative.

The Fat Artist And Other Stories by Benjamin Hale is published in hardback by Picador, priced £12.99 (ebook £11.48)

BENJAMIN Hale is back following a successful debut, *The Evolution Of Bruno Littlemore* – a book that told the story of a chimpanzee who learns to speak English and develops a romantic relationship with a woman. This time, Hale has written a selection of short stories, but the surreal element that featured in his first novel remains a key theme. From an artist who nearly eats himself to death ('The Fat Artist') to the woman who accidentally feeds her baby hallucinogenics during a flight, these are stories about people amid, or on the brink of, panic.

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THE BENNETTS AUTUMN EVENT STARTS THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER AT 9:15AM

Oxfordshire Listings

Events

THURSDAY

2121 (Abingdon) Sqn Air Training Corps: 2121 (Abingdon) Sqn premises, Wootton Road, Whitecross, Abingdon. A youth organisation with adventure training, sports, gliding and flying. The Sqn meets twice a week. 7.15pm. £8 per month. 01235 538955.

Ballroom Dancing: The Henry Box School Sports Hall, Church Green, Witney. New beginner classes with Pat Anslow. See www.dancewithpatanslow.co.uk 6.30pm. 07789 974866.

Drayton Sequence Dance: Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 7.30pm. £2. 01235 531701.

Family History Helpdesk: Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley. Oxfordshire Family History Society advisers are available to help you research your family tree, whether in Oxfordshire or beyond. 10am. Free. 01865 358151.

Grove RFC Girls' Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. Contact rugby union for girls aged 11-18 in three age groups led by RFU-qualified coaches. New players welcome. 7pm. Annual membership £85 after three free sessions. 07970 292322.

Rhythm and Dance: Rugrats and Halpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 11am. Free with standard entrance price to centre. 01295 250060.

Scarecrow Festival: Wootton & Dry Sandford Community Centre, Lamborough Hill, Wootton. This year's theme is *The Wizard of Oz*. 10am. £1 per entry. 01235 532816.

Sequence & Ballroom dancing: Woodstock Social Club, 44 Oxford Street, Woodstock. Learn from 7.30 to 8.45pm. Practice until 10.30pm. £2. 01993 812094.

Slimming World Didcot: Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot. 5pm and 7pm. 07508 202462.

FRIDAY

The Creation Station: The Emmanuel Church, Barberry Place, Bure Park, Bicester. The Baby Discover classes for ages five months to 14 months and the Little Explorer classes ages 15 months to five years. 9.30am. 07724 321930.

Victory Fashion at Upton House: Upton House & Gardens, Upton House, Banbury. See examples of women's military uniforms, and discover the stories of those who wore them. 1pm. Normal admission prices apply. 01295670266.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan: Blenheim Palace, Oxford Road, Woodstock. Take part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in the stunning setting of the Orangery Restaurant, with views out over the Duke's private Italian Gardens. 10am. Free – charitable donation to Macmillan welcome. 01993 810530.

SATURDAY

Macmillan Coffee Morning: Hailey Village Hall, Middleton. 10am. Free entry. 07786 795235.

Oxfordshire Family History Fair: Marlborough School, Shipton Road, Woodstock. Stalls including family history societies of different areas and military experts; advisers to help you with your research, and books and CDs for sale. See www.ofhs.org.uk/fair.html for more details. 10am. Free. 01488 71714.

Ramblers walk: Black Bear Inn, Moreton-in-Marsh. Hilly 11-mile Cotswolds walk. 10am. 01869 249128.

SUNDAY

Blackthorn Car Boot Sale: B4011 Bicester to Thame Road, Blackthorn, near Bicester. Sellers £5 any size vehicle. 10am. Buyers free. 07786 607097.

Bytomic Taekwondo Classes:

Brookside Primary School, Bucknell Road, Bicester. 5pm. 01844 281 888. **Faringdon Folly Tower Open:** Faringdon Folly Tower and Woodland, Stanford Road, Faringdon. 11am. Adults £3, 11-16s £1, under 11s free.

Ramblers walk: Cookley Green, Nettlebed. Nine-mile walk via Swyncombe and Watlington Hill. Bring a picnic. 10am. 01865 708736.

Witney Giant Afternoon Boot Sale: Ducklington Showground, A415 Standlake Road, Ducklington. £8 per car, £10 per car with trailer/transit/lorry. Sellers from 10am, buyers from 12pm. 07974 056379.

MONDAY

Abingdon Scottish Dance Club: Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. Beginners and experienced dancers welcome. No partner required. 8pm. Free for the first evening, then £2.50. 01235 525436.

Ceroc dance class: The Glee Club, 3-5 Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford. A fusion of modern jive and salsa. No partner needed and no need to book. See www.cerocoxford.com. 7.30pm. £9 (or £7 after 9.45pm). 07974 388340.

Indoor Bowls (short-mat): Drayton Village Hall, Lockway, Drayton. 1.45pm. 01235 528402.

Mums Meet Mondays: Rugrats and Halpints, Beaumont Road, Banbury. 9.30am. £1 per child. 01295 250060.

Seven Steps to Writing a Novel: Vale & Downland Museum, 19 Church Street, Wantage. Author Deborah Martin will be running seven weekly workshops to help you write, publish and promote your own work. 1.30pm. £15 per session or £90 for all seven sessions. 01235 771447.

We Will Not Fight: Museum of Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, St Aldate's, Oxford. Susan Smith talks about conscientious objectors in Oxford during WWI. The Military Service Act in 1916 made conscription compulsory for the first time in British history. Henry Gillett and Harry Waddle were conscientious objectors from Oxford and this talk will explore what happened to them and other conscientious objectors. Susan Smith is a local researcher. Refreshments available from 1.30pm. 2pm. Free. 01865 252334.

TUESDAY

Examination of the Chilcot Report: Wesley Memorial Church, New Inn Hall Street, Oxford. Talk by Sir Ivor Roberts, president of Trinity College and previously a British Ambassador on the ramifications of the Chilcot inquiry into the Iraq War. 1pm. Free. 01865 761630.

Family History Helpdesk: Oxfordshire History Centre, St Luke's Church, Temple Road, Cowley. Oxfordshire Family History Society advisors are available to help you research your family tree, whether in Oxfordshire or beyond. 10am. Free. 01865 358151.

Latin American Dancing: The Henry Box School Sports Hall, Church Green, Witney. New beginner classes with Pat Anslow. See www.dancewithpatanslow.co.uk 7pm. 07789 974866.

Slimming World: Abingdon College Campus, Wootton Road, Abingdon. 5.30pm and 7.30pm. 07568 092964.

Slimming World: Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road, Didcot. 9.30am, 11.30am, 5pm and 7pm. £10 membership and then £4.95 a week. 07788 132541.

WEDNESDAY

Grove RFC Ladies Rugby: Grove RFC, Recreation Lane, Grove. 7pm. Annual membership £70 after three free sessions. 07970 292322.

Icknield Way Morris Men: Grove Scout Hut, Grove Recreation Ground, Grove. New dancers and musicians welcome. 8.15pm. first sessions free (annual subs for members). 07805

To get an event of any kind listed here, enter the details into our easy-to-use online database at thisisoxfordshire.co.uk/events

Please add your event no later than ten days before the day of publication.

215468.

Reading The Bones – What Can We Learn From Human Skeletal Remains: The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street, Woodstock. Speaker Alice Rose (Osteoarchaologist at Oxford Archaeology. Free to members, £2 guests. 7.30pm.

Witney Bytomic Taekwondo Classes: Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. 7pm. Monthly fees apply. 01844 281888.

Youth Theatre – The BFG Meets Matilda and other Roald Dahl Characters: The Studio, Unit 2, Crown Walk, Bicester. Explore Roald Dahl classics through a variety of theatre mediums including drama, singing and dance. Gain vocal and movement techniques while you build your confidence in a fun safe environment. This club will focus on developing acting skills and characterisation. Final performance at Bicester's Christmas Lights Night. 5.30pm. £7. 01869 602560.

Music

THURSDAY

Worcester College, Worcester Street, Oxford: The Epstein, Brickwork Lizards, Little Brother Eli. Oxjam in the Round. 7.15pm. £6.50.

The Jericho Tavern, 56 Walton Street, Oxford: Holy Moments. Punk. 7pm. £6.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Julian Nicholas. The Spin Jazz Club. Jazz saxophonist. 8.30pm. £10, £8 (conc), £6 (student).

FRIDAY

Carterton Social Centre, Brownes Lane, Carterton: Country & Western Dance with Black Steel (trio). £6. 8.30pm. 01993 850682.

OVADA, 14A Osney Lane, Oxford: Ritual In Transfigured Time. A new collaboration exploring sound and image, old and new, conventional and self-made musical instruments. £14 (£10 concession). 7.30pm. 01865 305305.

St Barnabas Church, St Barnabas Street, Oxford: The Jericho Barn Dance. Featuring Melobo live band and caller. £5. 7pm. 01865 557530.

The Northcourt, Abingdon Utd, Northcourt Road, Abingdon: Keep It Cash. Johnny Cash tribute. £12 advance & £14 door. 7.30pm. 01235 203203.

The White House, Abingdon Road, Oxford: Si Barron. Oxford Folk Club. £6. 8.30pm. 01865 768128.

O2 Academy Oxford,190 Cowley Road, Oxford: The Magic Gang plus Babeheaven. 7pm. £8 adv – MOTD. **Joe's Bar & Grill, 260 Banbury Road, Oxford:** Manos Puestas. Latin jazz duo. 8pm. Free.

O2 Academy Oxford,190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Wild Beasts. Indie rockers promoting latest album *Boy King*. 7pm. £16.

The Cellar, Frewin Court, Oxford: Laid Blak (live), Count Skylarkin, DJ Bunjy, MC Joe Peng. Reggae. 10pm. £6. **The Bullingdon, 162 Cowley Road, Oxford:** Sleepers Dome, Callow Saints, The Land Girls, The Outside. Electro-rock & indie. 7pm. £6.

SATURDAY

St Peter's Church, Thames Street, Wallingford: The Thames Consort. Directed by Jeremy Boughton it features

Elinor Carter (mezzo soprano), Katherine Smith (flute), Karina Bell (harp) with choir and orchestra. £14 or £12 paid in advance. 8pm. 01491 824792.

Marston Royal British Legion, Hadow Road, Marston: Kevin Taylor. 8pm.Free. 01865 243991.

Tiddy Hall, Shipton Road, Ascott-under-Wychwood: Sunjay plus support from Alan Pettifer. £10 in advance £12 on the door. 8pm. 01993 831427.

O2 Academy Oxford,190 Cowley Road, Oxford: I Cried Wolf, The Colour Line, Severance. Metal/hard rock. 6pm. £8.

O2 Academy Oxford, 190 Cowley Road, Oxford: Beth Orton. Kidsticks Tour. Doors 6.30pm. £20.35.

Donnington Community Centre, Freeland Road, Iffley, Oxford: All-day festival with local musical artists plus acoustic jam session, children's activities and food from Donnington Doorstep. 2pm-10pm. Free.

Salter's Bros Steamers, Folly Bridge, Oxford: Flights of Helios Boat Party with Horns of Plenty & PLE DJs. Nighttime cruise with live sets, indie DJs and surprises. 7pm-10pm. £10.

James Street Tavern, 47-48 James Street, Oxford: Jerry Lunn, Sir Bald, Johnny Louche. 50s/60s rock n roll, classic rhythm n blues, early soul. 8pm-1am.

The Victoria Arms, Mill Lane, Old Marston: King B. Funky blues and soul. 8pm. Free.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Kanadia, Sleepers' Dome, Slate Hearts and Wolfs. Musicians Against Homelessness charity gig. 7.45pm. £6.

Royal Standard, 78 London Road, Headington: Pete Fryer Band. Blues-rock. 9pm. Free.

SUNDAY

Holywell Music Room, Holywell Street, Oxford: Handel: Messiah. Kennington and District United Church Choirs will perform. Free, collection for Meningitis Research. 2.30pm. 01865 735885.

The White House, 38 Abingdon Road, Oxford: The Mighty Redox, Puppet Mechanic. All original psycho-eclectic rock band. 3pm-6pm. Free.

The Wheatsheaf, 129 High Street, Oxford: Anarchistwood, Unman, Old Ernie. Punk. 7.30pm. £5.

MONDAY

The Royal Blenheim, 13 St Ebbes Street, Oxford: Open mic hosted by Scott Gordon. 8pm. Free.

TUESDAY

Ashmolean Museum, Beaumont Street, Oxford: OSJ Prom at the Ashmolean. Orchestra of St John's, John Lubbock, conductor, and Brazilian tenor Wagner Moreira. £25 chair (£10 bench). 7.30pm. 07775 904626.

Chipping Norton Theatre, 2 Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Nancy Kerr and the Sweet Visitor Band. £16. 7.45pm. 01608 642350.

The Bell Inn, Faringdon: Nick Gill/Andy Crisp Duo. Classic jazz and ragtime piano/vocals/percussion. 7.30-10pm. Free.

The Half Moon, 18 St Clements, Oxford: Time Is Of The Essence. Jazz quartet. 9pm. Free.

WEDNESDAY

The White House, 38 Abingdon

Road, Oxford: The best local blues acts with Tony Batey & Sal Moore and friends. 8pm. Free.

Theatre

Burton Taylor Studio, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Sep 29, *Spine*.

Charting the explosive friendship between a ferocious, wise-cracking teenager and an elderly East End widow. 7.30pm. £10 (£8).Oct 5-8, *Operation Crucible*. Set against the backdrop of the Sheffield Blitz, the story of four ordinary men in extraordinary times. 7.30pm. £10 (£8). 01865 305305.

Glee Club, Hythe Bridge Street, Oxford: Sep 30, Isy Suttie. 7pm. £14. Oct 1, Andy Robinson, Imran Yusuf and Erich McElroy. 7.15pm. £14.50. 0871 472 04007.

Old Fire Station, 40 George Street, Oxford: Sep 29, *Nine Lives*. New play from Zodwa Nyoni threads together humour and humanity to tell the real

personal story behind asylum headlines. 7.30pm. £12/£10. Sep 30, *The Curiositorium*. The Dead Secrets bring you a labyrinthine sketch comedy adventure. 7.30pm. £12/£10. Oct 4, *Flat 73*. Battersby Buildings has 75 flats and yet very few people know each other. There's Beryl, 68, and recently widowed; Chelsea, a new mum at 18; and Simon a young man with learning disabilities. Laura, a Samaritan, also unbeknownst to them, lives in Flat 73 – on one fateful day, unbeknownst to her, she brings them all together. 7.30pm. Pay what you can. Oct 11, *Hammer and Tongue*. Live spoken word and the Open Poetry Slam. 8pm. £7/£5. 01865 263990.

Oxford Playhouse, Beaumont Street, Oxford: Until -Oct 1, *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme*. Iconic war play by Frank McGuinness. Various times. £11.50-£27. Oct 4-7, *Things I Know to be True*. Telling the story of a family and marriage through the eyes of four grown siblings. Various times. £11.50-£27. Oct 6, *Wrecking Ball*. A male photographer is taking a photograph of a female celebrity. She wants to be reinvented. She wants to be For Real. *Wrecking Ball* is about consent, power, authorship and putting words in other people's mouths. 7.30pm. £12/£10. 01865 305305.

New Theatre, George Street, Oxford: Until Sep 27-Oct 1, *Cats*. 7.30pm plus 2.30pm on Wed and Sat. £15-£44.50 plus £4 transaction fee. Oct 5, *Nina Conti: In Your Face*. 7.30pm. £24.15 plus £2.85 transaction fee. 0844 871 7615.

The North Wall Arts Centre, South Parade, Oxford: Oct 1, *A Pocketful of Grimms*. 11am and 2pm. £8 (£6 concessions). Oct 4-5, *And Then Come The Nightjars*. 8pm. £14 (£12 concession). 01865 319450.

Chipping Norton Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping Norton: Sep 30. Grand Gala Auction hosted by Alexander Armstrong. £10. 7pm. Oct 1, Lucy Porter. 7.45pm. £14.50 (£12.50). Oct 5, Pete Firman. Star of BBC1's *The Magicians* with his new comedy show. 7.45pm. £16 (£14). 01608 642350.

Cornerstone, Station Road, Didcot: Sep 29, Seann Walsh. 8pm. £15 (£13.50). Sep 30, *Jo Caulfield: The Customer Is Always Wrong*. 8pm. £15 (£13.50). Oct 2, *Albee Vector Sound Collector*. For ages three to seven. 2pm. £8 (£6). Oct 5-6, *Omid Djalili: Schmuck For A Night*. Stand-up comedy. 8pm. £25, £22.50 (concs), £20 (members). Oct 8, *Hal Cruttenden: Straight Outta Cruttenden*. 8pm. £16.50 (£15). 01235 515144.

CakeSport

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Ford: We're up for Cup shock

Boss confident in-form Banbury can stun Wealdstone

MIKE Ford said it would be no surprise if Banbury United were to upset higher league opposition in Saturday's Emirates FA Cup clash, writes MATTHEW BRUCE.

The Puritans travel to Vanarama National League South side Wealdstone in the third qualifying round.

Although the hosts occupy a place in the division above, Banbury manager Ford believes his side have the advantage in their first tie at this stage of the competition since 2005.

"It's a fantastic tie for us," he said.

"Their home record's not great and there's a bit of disquiet about

FOOTBALL

their result at the weekend (a 2-1 defeat to Truro City), so they're under huge pressure.

"They're in the top ten in their league, so there is a gulf, but they won't hold any fears for us.

"If we go there and win it won't come as a surprise to me at all.

"In a one-off game I would fancy us against anyone from that level."

The Puritans head into the tie on a high after a 3-0 win over Kings Langley in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division.

Goals from George Jeacock, Conor McDonagh and Ricky Johnson helped extend their unbeaten run to five in all competitions.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

| Premier Division | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|----------|-----------|--|--|--|
| | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts | | | |
| Slough Tn | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 5 | 25 | | | |
| Dunstable Tn | 10 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 20 | 9 | 25 | | | |
| Leamington | 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 5 | 23 | | | |
| Chippenham | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 14 | 20 | | | |
| Banbury Utd | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 9 | 16 | | | |
| Frome Tn | 11 | 5 | 1 | 5 | 19 | 20 | 16 | | | |
| Merthyr Tn | 9 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 21 | 10 | 15 | | | |
| Chesham Utd | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 14 | 9 | 15 | | | |
| Hitchin Tn | 10 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 17 | 13 | 15 | | | |
| Redditch Utd | 10 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 15 | 17 | 15 | | | |
| Weymouth | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 14 | 13 | 14 | | | |
| Kettering Tn | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 15 | 16 | 14 | | | |
| King's Lynn Tn | 10 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 16 | 18 | 14 | | | |
| Stratford Tn | 10 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 15 | 17 | 13 | | | |
| Kings Langley | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 14 | 14 | 11 | | | |
| Biggleswade Tn | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 15 | 11 | | | |
| Basingstoke Tn | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 11 | | | |
| Hayes & Yeading | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 11 | 16 | 11 | | | |
| Dorchester Tn | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 11 | | | |
| St Ives Tn | 10 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 20 | 11 | | | |
| St Neots Tn | 10 | 3 | 1 | 6 | 15 | 22 | 10 | | | |
| Cambridge C | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 13 | 17 | 9 | | | |
| Cirencester Tn | 10 | 2 | 1 | 7 | 10 | 25 | 7 | | | |
| Cinderford Tn | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 6 | | | |



Manager Mike Ford is in an upbeat mood ahead of Banbury's FA Cup tie at Wealdstone

Bulls fall to defeat at leaders

RUGBY UNION

BANBURY found themselves outclassed as they suffered a heavy 38-0 defeat at unbeaten league leaders Maidenhead on Saturday.

The north Oxfordshire side, who are newly promoted to the sixth tier of English rugby, conceded four tries in the first half to trail 24-0 at the break in the South West 1 East clash.

Banbury improved in the second half, cutting out the loose passes and unforced errors, but conceded two scores in the last 20 minutes.

They now bid to arrest a run of two successive defeats when they welcome second-placed Newbury Blues to Bodicote Park this weekend.

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

Careful of sharing news which is not yours to tell, or you could end up being labelled a gossip. Jupiter helps you to find more order and sense in outstanding financial issues. You finally have a game plan as to where you are going and what does and does not work. Ring now to hear who can't stop thinking about you lately.

0906 585 4360

TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

Someone you thought you could trust has let you down, but what you're about to discover, is that they've actually done you a very big favour. Now you are no longer obliged to help them. Venus helps you see who was wrong for you and why you are better off without them. Ring now to hear how contracts signed now are lucky.

0906 585 4361

GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Decisions you make over the course of the next week help you to better understand yourself. Your dreams have been mixed with the needs of others and you were making compromises which were more about other people's demands than they were about you. Ring now to hear which sign you need to distance yourself from.

0906 585 4362

CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

You've changed and I like it. No longer are you willing to accept second best, but you know you're worth making the effort for. You finally see someone for who they are and you start to take steps to distance yourself from them. News from far away gives you reason to feel excited. Ring now to hear how Gemini's prove memorable.

0906 585 4363

LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

Nerves are standing in the way of you making the most of your personal life. I know you can get what and who you want, but for a long time you did not know if you were worthy. The coming seven days will prove to you that indeed you are. Ring now to hear how travelling for career breaks is well worthwhile this October.

0906 585 4364

VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

Your house of finances promises you several opportunities to improve funds, but you may want to keep any good news regarding money to yourself, as many of the signs may think it's their right to share in any good fortune you have. A new flirtation has the promise to be so much more. Ring now to hear who your perfect match would be.

0906 585 4365

LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

Try not to spend money you know you should be saving, or you will take the joy out of what should otherwise be a fun filled week. Someone you thought you would not see again crosses your path. Find the confidence to say what you should have said last time. Ring now to hear why it's worth doing all your work yourself this month.

0906 585 4366

SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

The need to get out and blow off some steam is strong in your chart and may make it hard for you to stay in the good books of those you usually find it easy to see eye to eye with. Know how far is too far to go when talking to the older generation who need your patience and tact this month. Ring now for a full reading.

0906 585 4367

SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

You want and deserve more respect but, in order to get it, you are going to have to stand your ground. I know this isn't going to be easy after the recent stand off you had with a close one, but these circumstances are different my friend. The sooner you realise this, the sooner you can gain control. Ring now so I can give you back your confidence.

0906 585 4368

CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

It's going to be easy for you to look back on the past with rose coloured spectacles, but try to keep your eye on the bigger picture. What's clear from your stars is that you have better things ahead than you do behind. Instant attractions make for an interesting week where you question what you want. Ring now to reveal your true calling.

0906 585 4369

AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

An air of tiredness is a clear indication that you've taken on too much. Try to slow your pace and keep an eye on the bigger picture, rather than what other people are telling you to do. You should know by now that you are a sign of individual tastes who wants a life that is different from others. Ring now to realise your priorities.

0906 585 4370

PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

Finances come to the fore and you may have to deal with issues which you'd rather have avoided. Trust me when I tell you that Saturn is on hand to help you find the right answers and to do a good job of anything that comes before you. An ex is back for a surprising reason. Ring now to hear what I know about your recent mixed emotions.

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Personal Messages

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in the past I have asked for many favours, this time I ask for this special one (mention it). Take it Dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your father sees it, then his merciful eyes it will become his favour not mine. Amen. Say for 3 days. Promise publication and favour will be granted. Never known to fail. D.S

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5 ENTERTAINMENTS

Entertainments

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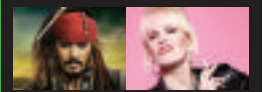
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8 PUBLIC NOTICES

Announcements - Public Notices

JAMES ANTHONY SOOTHERAN (Deceased)

Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the above named, late of High Havers Farm, South Newington, Banbury, Oxfordshire, OX15 4JP, who died on 18/03/2014, are required to send written particulars thereof to the undersigned on or before 07/12/2016, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

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9 RECRUITMENT

5 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR CV

- 1. Keep it between 2 and 3 pages**
Any more and it looks like you're rambling.
Any less and it looks like you don't care.
- 2. Keep it clear and easy to read**
Curb your creative juices.
Use bullet points and keep sentences short.
- 3. Always use a cover letter and tailor your CV**
Research the company and use the job advert to ensure you stand out as the perfect candidate.
- 4. 'Nobody's perfect'**
But there's not a single reason your CV should have grammar or spelling mistakes.
- 5. Tell the truth**
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10 MOTORS



| | | |
|---------|--|---------------|
| 2011 61 | VOLKSWAGEN FOX. Metallic Black. 1.2 three door. Local car. Approximately only 14500 recorded miles from new. Superb condition. PAS . Radio/CD. Parrot Bluetooth fitted. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI clear..... | £3,395.00 |
| 2005 05 | FORD FOCUS ZETEC CLIMATE. 1.6cc. Black. 5 doors. A lovely car with approximately only 56000 recorded miles.. Local car. PAS.Aircon. Alloys. Radio/CD. Electric windows and mirrors. Remote central locking etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. Hpi Clear | £2,895.00 |
| 2007 07 | FORD FIESTA 1.4cc ZETEC CLIMATE. Silver. 3 door. PAS. Aircon. Electric windows. Radio/CD. Central locking. Lovely condition throughout. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi Clear..... | £2,395.00 |
| 2005 54 | ALFA ROMEO 156 JTS Veloce 2.0. Silver Metallic. Black leather interior. Very nice condition throughout. Local car. Alloys. Air con. PAS. Radio/CD. Remote central locking. Electric windows Etc. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt kit. HPI clear | £2,195.00 |
| 2002 51 | FORD MONDEO ZETEC 2.0 TDCi. 5 door hatchback, metallic blue, local car in very nice condition throughout, PAS, alloys, aircon, remote central locking, electric windows and doors and mirrors, radio/cd, very nice example of this popular large diesel car, Sold with a new MOT, a full service, and a new cambelt kit, Hpi clear..... | £1,995.00 |
| 2005 05 | PEUGEOT 307S. 1.6cc. 5 door. Blue. Local car. Lovely condition. PAS. Electric windows. Electric door mirrors. Radio/CD. Aircon. Alloys. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. Hpi Clear..... | £1,795.00 |
| 2002 52 | CITROEN SAXO 1.1 Desire. Metallic red. 3 doors. One local owner from new. Approximately only 29500 recorded miles from new. Lovely condition throughout. PAS. Radio/CD. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear. | £1,395.00 |
| 2003 03 | FORD KA COLLECTION. Black. 1300 cc. 2 owners from new. Approximately only 65000 recorded miles. PAS. Radio/CD. Electric windows. Central locking. Very nice small car. Sold with a new MOT and a full service. HPI clear..... | £1,395.00 |
| 2003 03 | FIAT PUNTO 1.9 DIESEL. Metallic dark red. 5 doors. Previously supplied by ourselves. Air-conditioning. PAS. Central locking. Electric windows. Radio. Very tidy and economical car for it's age. Sold with a new MOT a full service and a new cambelt. HPI clear..... | Arriving soon |

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VAUXHALL



Cherry Fields, off Hardwick Hill, and, right, one of the showhomes

Cherry pick your home in a new development

THE first homes at Cherry Fields in Banbury went on the open market last week.

The development, built by Ashberry Homes, includes two-, three-, four- and five-bedroom family houses.

It is being built on land off Hardwick Hill and will be a mix of detached, semi-detached and terraced styles. Cherry Fields will become a part of the first phase of a proposed 510 new homes at the development.

Ashberry Homes' divisional sales

Gill Oliver
goliver@nqo.com

manager Jane Yolland said the firm released the details to its list of prospective-buyers a few weeks earlier.

She described Cherry Fields as "an important extension of the existing community in Banbury".

Ms Yolland said: "Our land and planning teams identified a tangible

need for new homes in Oxfordshire and Banbury in particular.

"It was crucial that our plans met the needs of a whole range of buyers, so we are extremely proud of the choice of property we now have at the development. These will ensure we can cater for the needs of first-time buyers, growing families and downsizers alike."

Cherry Fields includes a range of brick, stone and render-finished properties and while each house type

is slightly different, they all come with gardens and share a communal greenspace with a children's play area. The firm will open two new four-bedroom show homes, the Nerine and Cornflower house types, soon.

Ashberry will provide more than £12m to the local community as part of planning agreements.

A new £4.9m primary school will be built and other investments will be made in bus services, community facilities, transport and highways

improvements, public art, play areas and public open spaces.

Ms Yolland pointed out: "In addition to supporting housing requirements, we are also make significant financial contributions to the local area.

"These will not only benefit new residents of Cherry Fields but existing communities in the surrounding areas."

For more information about Cherry Fields, call 07855 337020 or visit ashberryhomes.co.uk.

Contact property writer Gill Oliver with your stories on 01865 425475 or email propertyedit@nqo.com



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- Village Location
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Banbury £270,000

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- Desirable Location



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Banbury £375,000

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- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- En-suite
- Gardens
- Garage and Driveway



Banbury £260,000

A three bedroom detached property situated within Cherwell Heights.

- Three Bedroom
- Lounge/Diner
- Cloakroom
- Garage and Parking



Banbury £425,000

A real show stopper! Gives exceptional family living.

- Five Bedrooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Garage



Greatworth £350,000

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- Detached
- Four Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Garage and Driveway



Banbury £225,000

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- Beautifully Presented
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- Kitchen/Diner
- Lounge
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Banbury £250,000

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- Cloakroom
- Large Garden



Banbury £400,000

An immaculately presented townhouse within the Cotswold town of Chipping Norton.

- Four Bedroom Townhouse
- Kitchen/ Dining
- Lounge
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Banbury £155,000

A rarely available ground floor two bedroom property in this retirement development.

- Retirement Apartment
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- Lounge
- Kitchen
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Banbury £350,000

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- Four Bedrooms
- Cul-de-sac
- Large Plot
- Double Garage



Middleton Cheney £345,000

A deceptively spacious bungalow situated within the popular village of Middleton Cheney..

- Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Sun Room
- Garage
- Beautiful Garden



Banbury £275,000

Immaculately presented 3 bedroom period townhouse situated.

- Three bedrooms
- Period Property
- Large Garden
- Beautifully presented



Middleton Cheney £335,000

Detached bungalow which has been immaculately renovated.

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301 Bretch Hill

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20 Guernsey Way

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market spacious and well presented two bedroom bungalow. The property has been recently redecorated throughout and benefits from new carpets. The property comprises entrance hall; open plan kitchen and living room; two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes; bathroom with corner bath and shower; conservatory. The property also has double glazing; gas central heating and driveway parking for 2 cars. EPC Rating B.

£825



Hollyhock Cottage

A new to the market spacious three bedroom property situated in the heart of the village of Bloxham. Available unfurnished immediately. Three double bedrooms. Separate utility area. Good size kitchen overlooking the garden and terrace ideal for entertaining. Very good access and walking distance to local shops; schools and bus routes.

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30 Walton Avenue

Martin & Co are pleased to present a new to the market refurbished three bedroom immaculately presented bungalow situated in the village of Twyford. The property comprises entrance hall; brand new kitchen with space for dishwasher and washing machine; living room with gas fire; three double bedrooms (two having fitted wardrobes); bathroom with bath and shower. The property benefits from a rear enclosed garden mainly laid to lawn. The property also benefits from a loft for storage; garage and garden shed. There is double glazing throughout and gas central heating. The property is ideally suitable for a professional couple or family or single person. Conveniently situated for access to Bicester and Banbury.

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